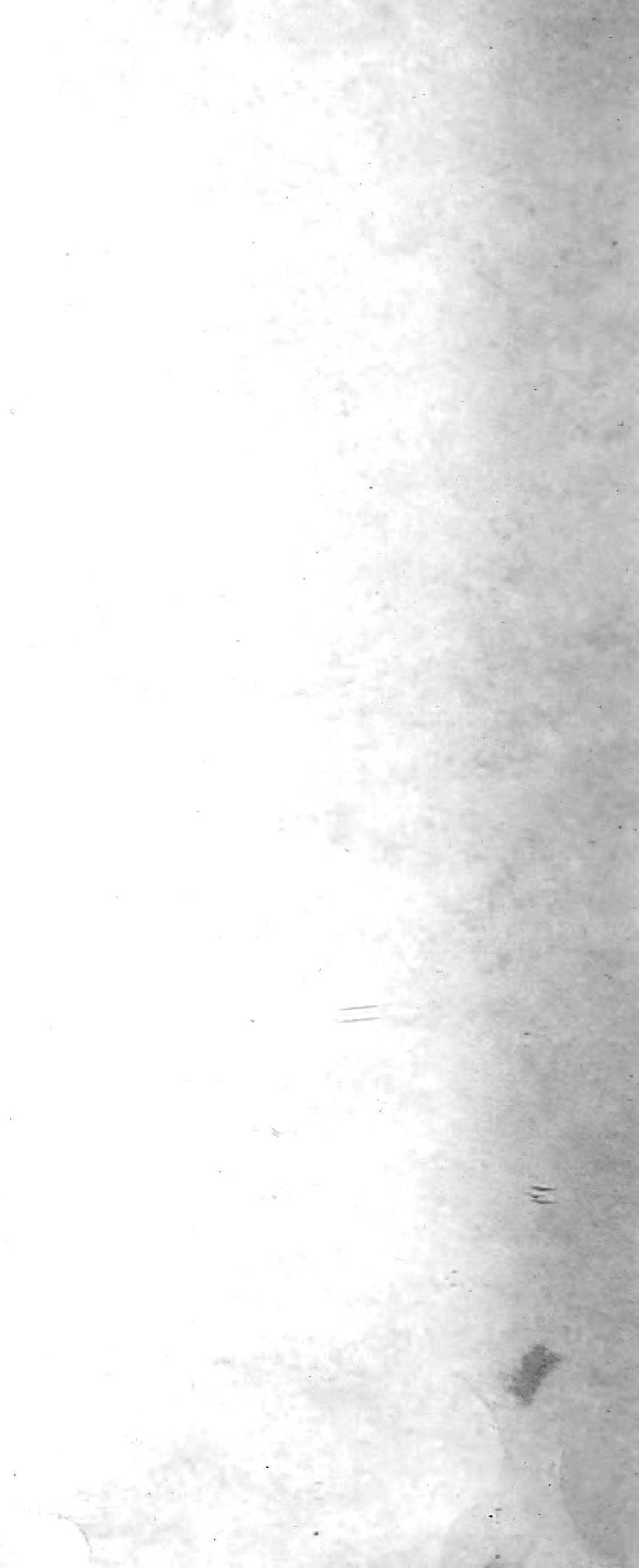


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



The Barbaric . . .

222

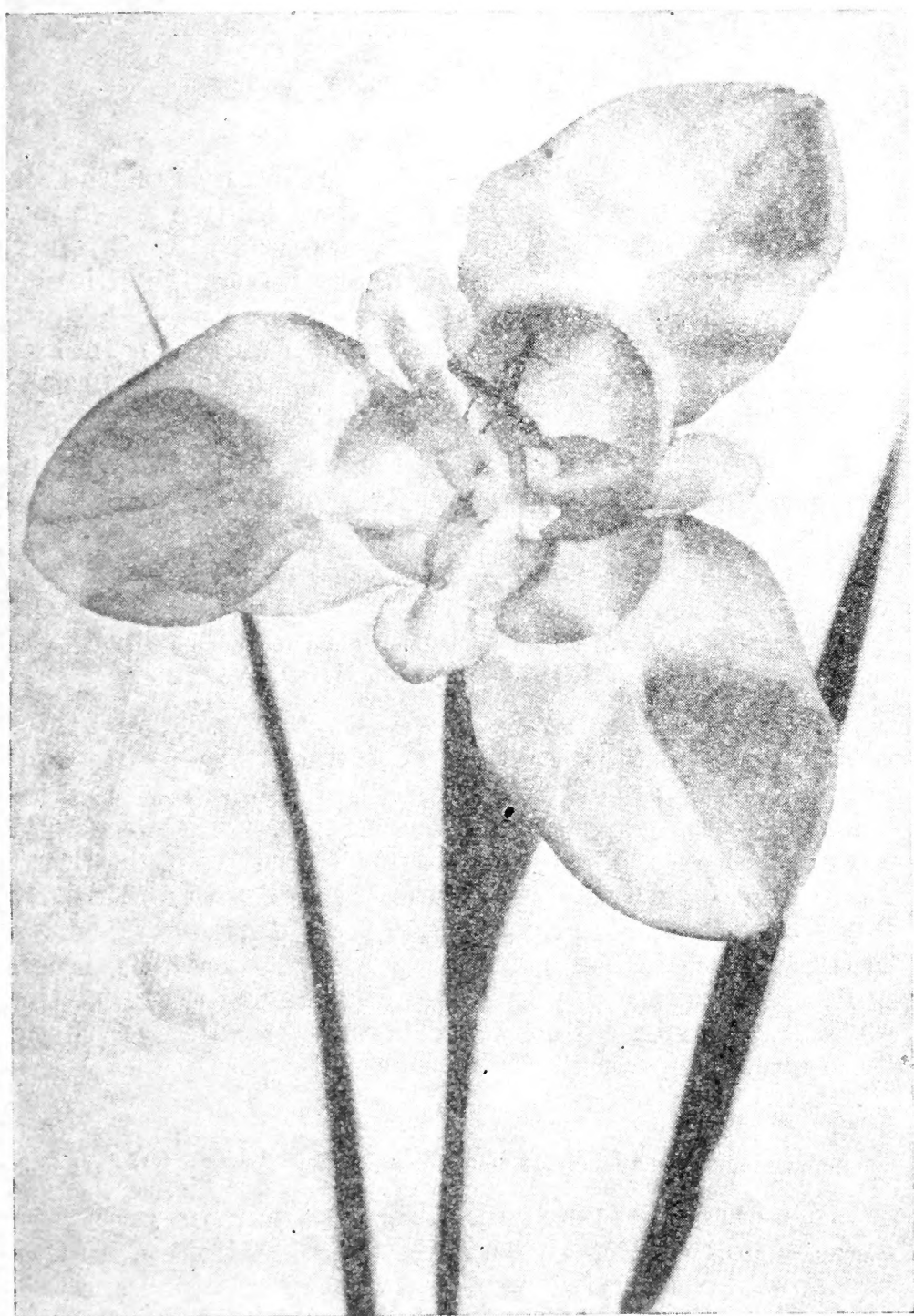
TIGRIDIAS

CHOICEST BULBS

GIANT BLOOMS

from the Pacific Northwest

The "Holland of America"



SPRING 1939

FRANK M. WILSON, *Hybridist*

Box 389

Bellingham, Washington

20,000 Fresh Blooms Each Day

IT was the privilege of everyone who visited our gardens last season to see this glorious display of the barbaric Tiger Flower. Those who have grown Tigridias can imagine what a breath-taking sight a field of twenty thousand silken blooms would be; but to those who have yet to enjoy the exotic loveliness of this "Garden Gypsy", we urge you to plan at least a small planting this Spring. The curious shape of the flowers and their bright, barbaric colors make them distinctive and outstanding, and if planted in large groups the effects are startling indeed.

• *What are Tigridias?*

Plainly speaking, Tigridias are distant cousins of the Iris family, and strangely little known to many gardeners. This beautiful flower stands alone among summer flowering bulbous plants for the brilliance of its wonderfully formed blossoms, which in our improved varieties measure as much as seven inches in diameter on 30 to 40-inch stems, under favorable conditions.

The three large outer petals are richly colored in various shades of scarlet, rose, yellow, orange and white, while the three smaller petals are heavily spotted with crimson. A few *immaculata* varieties, which are as yet rare, have pure, spotless cups of contrasting color to the petals, and are equally, if not more beautiful than the spotted varieties.

The individual flowers are short lived, but they continue to come, day after day, under favorable conditions, until autumn frosts kill the buds. A bed of mature bulbs in our gardens last season produced a succession of blossoms over a period of 98 days. Many of these bulbs sent forth 30 to 40 giant flowers during that time. Bright days or dark, good days or bad, Tigridia sends forth its silken triangles, fresh and clean each day of the summer, to grace the garden at times when color is most needed in those "wide open spaces."

• *Can I Grow Tigridias in My Garden?*

Most certainly you can. Tigridias can be grown in any section of the United States and Mexico, and in the southern provinces of Canada. Any good garden soil with a reasonable amount of humus will produce excellent plants. They need plenty of moisture until after flowering. Bulbs are planted three to five inches deep, after the soil becomes warm. The planting time varies in different sections of the country.

• *Do They Have any Diseases or Pests?*

After many years of work with this bulb, we have yet to discover any disease. Sometimes mistaken for disease is the rot that occurs in storage of the bulbs.

Plant pathologists have informed us this rot is similar to Gladiolus dry rot. In almost all cases bulbs infected with dry rot are lost, and time and effort in planting is wasted. Some may sprout, but usually struggle along and fail to bloom.

Mild attacks of onion thrip have been noticed, but without any more harm than perhaps puncturing the buds. The usual garden pests: cut worms, slugs, gophers, field mice and moles must be watched for and destroyed.

• *Should Tigridia Bulbs "Run Out"?*

No. If cared for correctly, bulbs should grow and increase each year. Moisture **MUST** be present at all times during blooming season. Bone meal may be used as a fertilizer, but must not come in direct contact with the bulb. Weak liquid manure applied during the blooming season helps to produce larger blossoms. If seed pods are removed after flowering, the season of bloom will be prolonged, and bulbs will be benefitted considerably.

• *Why Don't My Tigridias Come Up?*

Here is a question asked most frequently by visitors to our gardens. There may be several reasons for failure to sprout. Gophers or mice sometimes steal the bulbs, traveling as they do in the mole runs. But the real reason is likely to be: **inferior bulbs**. The particular gardener should be very careful to select fresh, plump bulbs that have been carefully handled during dormancy.

• *Do I HAVE to Dig My Bulbs Each Year?*

In mild sections, some gardeners leave bulbs in the ground all winter, covering with a suitable mulch. This method, however, is not recommended, due to the ravages of cutworms, mice, gophers, slugs, etc., which are almost always present in mulched areas. To be on the safe side, bulbs should be dug in the fall, carefully stored, and divided just before planting the following spring.

• *How Will I Know a Good Bulb When I See One?*

A bulb to produce bloom the first season, should be at least an inch in diameter; firm, fresh, plump, and containing a reasonable amount of moisture. Dried, shriveled bulbs will **NOT** give satisfactory results, and often fail to sprout. The base of the bulb should **NOT** be broken or injured in any way. It should be a "natural division," with evidence of last season's roots still upon it. **No breakoffs should be accepted.** If good, fresh bulbs are planted, the chances of success are multiplied, and a longer blooming season with larger flowers will be enjoyed.

Wilson's Improved Tigridias



Improvement of any type of plant is rarely if ever accomplished in one season, or even two or three seasons. Many years are spent in the study of the requirements and peculiarities of the plant selected. Certain standards of quality and vigor must be maintained through the years in order to produce plants that will "stand the gaff" equally well in all sections in which they are grown. Climatic and soil conditions play an important part.

Northwest Washington is nationally recognized as "the Holland of America" because of its cool summers and not too severe winters, and the types of soil so necessary to the propagation of fine stock. The semi-tropical climate is particularly adapted to the propagation of Tigridias. With the aid of these natural advantages, together with many years of experimenting and crossing, we have developed a strain of Tigridias that is recognized by many authorities on bulb lore as "the finest that can be produced anywhere."

A noted writer once named Tigridia "The Garden Gypsy," because of its barbaric, evanescent tendencies. It seemed to us such an appropriate description that we adopted Gypsy titles for the varieties, old and new, as they made their appearance. We offer only the best varieties this year, with others to follow as they are considered worthy of introduction:

AZTEC CHIEF—An improved Tigridia Pavonia. Blazing scarlet petals with deep red spots in cup. Improved in size of blossom and length of stem.

Each 15c, six 75c, dozen \$1.50

GYPSY MAID—Clear, shining chrome yellow petals with maroon spotted centers. Those who are fond of yellow will be delighted with this gem.

Each 15c, six 75c, dozen \$1.50

SUNSET GLOW—We found that this hybrid resembled the setting sun so closely that a Gypsy name could not be found to describe it. Petals are almost orange in color, with streaks of warm scarlet from the cup out to the very edge of the petals. Cup heavily spotted deep red.

Each 15c, six 75c, dozen \$1.50

ROSE KING—Petals of fascinating rose color, varying somewhat in individuals; white cup and wine-red spots. A bed of Rose King Tigridias is indescribable in its beauty.

Each 25c, six \$1.25, dozen \$2.50

VAGABOND PRINCE—Dazzling, pure white petals, with an immense cup filled with maroon spots. Here is a white flower that has real value. The perfect combination of colors, vigorous growth, and giant blossoms make it one of outstanding beauty.

Each 25c, six \$1.25, dozen \$2.50

(over)



THERE is hardly anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse and sell a little cheaper, and the people who consider price alone are this man's lawful prey.

—*John Ruskin*

ORDER SHEET

FRANK M. WILSON Hybridist
Box 389, Bellingham, Washington

Please enter my order for the following Improved
Tigridias:

No. Bulbs

.....AZTEC CHIEF.....	\$.....
.....SUNSET GLOW.....	\$.....
.....GYPSY MAID.....	\$.....
.....ROSE KING.....	\$.....
.....VAGABOND PRINCE.....	\$.....
.....BUCCANEER	\$.....
.....SCARLET GIANT.....	\$.....
.....CANARY QUEEN.....	\$.....
.....RAINBOW COLLECTION	\$.....

• •

If the above order amounts to \$3.00 to
\$5.00, please include ONE CANARY
QUEEN, giant bulb, at 75c.....\$.....

If the above order amounts to \$5.00 or
over, please include ONE SCARLET
GIANT, giant bulb, at \$1.25.....\$.....

TOTAL ORDER.....\$.....

• •

PLEASE WRITE NAME AND ADDRESS PLAINLY

.....
.....
.....
.....

BUCCANEER—A 1939 Introduction—The title fits the blossom exactly. Strong, sinewy stems, flashing scarlet petals, deep orange cup filled with maroon spots. The flowers are of heavy texture, beautifully shaped, and stand face-up to the sun like a huge red Jap iris. Our stock of Buccaneer is none too large as yet, but we are anxious to have at least some of our customers share our enthusiasm for this bold pirate. First come, first served.

Each 50c, six \$2.25

SCARLET GIANT—The King of Tigridias—Three enormous petals surround a cup of purest orange. Spots have been entirely eliminated. We have seen blossoms of Scarlet Giant in our beds measuring eight inches in diameter. This variety is an improvement of the foreign introduction "Le Geant Rouge," and for some reason does not propagate so freely as others. Bulbs, however, attain enormous size, sometimes weighing from three to five ounces. Here is the rarest and most beautiful of the entire Tigridia family.

Giant bulbs, each \$2.50, three \$6.50

CANARY QUEEN—Another "spotless" variety, not often found in catalogs. Petals of soft, chrome yellow, and silken white cup with the faintest of spots, almost imperceptible. At times Canary Queen produces four, five, six, or even eight petals, creating the effect of a "double" Tigridia. Truly the most interesting variety of all, and the possibilities of future hybridizing are most promising. Blooms a trifle smaller than Scarlet Giant, but somewhat more prolific.

Giant Bulbs, each \$1.50, six \$8.00

RAINBOW COLLECTION—This group is made up of spotted varieties, our selection, mostly shades of scarlet and yellow, and oftentimes bulbs of the so-called "pink" variety. These bulbs are of the same high quality, and are the same size as the segregated colors.

Per dozen \$1.50, per Hundred \$12.50



Claremont, Calif., Oct. 28, 1938

Dear Mr. Wilson: I have seen some of your Tigridias in a neighbor's garden. They are so showy and fine, especially the red ones. May I have your catalog, please?

H.L.C.

San Francisco, Calif., Sept 28, 1938

Dear Mr. Wilson: I bought fifty Tigridias from you last spring. I followed planting instructions, and every bulb came up. They have been the talk of the neighborhood all summer; the biggest blooms I have ever seen, and every one is a jewel.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. A. M. J.



TIGRIDIAS are very easy to grow. Brilliant as though painted with liquid sunshine, this exotic flower is well worth cultivating, for with the observance of a few simple precautions a rich display for the summer garden is assured.

TRY THE IMPROVED BULBS FIRST!

SPECIAL 1939 OFFER

• This year **ONLY** we make this offer. It will not occur again. The reason: to make our customers acquainted with the two outstanding varieties of our **IMPROVED Tigridias**, and to give each an opportunity to enjoy the unique charm of the "spotless" varieties.

With each order amounting to \$3.00, to \$5.00, we offer:

ONE CANARY QUEEN, giant bulb, for only.....75c Additional

With each order amounting to \$5.00 or over:
ONE SCARLET GIANT, giant bulb, for only.....\$1.25 Additional

• Here is an opportunity to show your friends something vastly different and exceedingly beautiful and rare in the Tigridia family.

• Terms and Information . . .

Cash with order—Postal or Express Money Orders or Bank Draft. No personal checks, Please!. And no C.O.D. orders. Any amount under \$1.50, add 10c for postage. Customers east of Rocky Mountains please include 10c extra on **ALL** orders, which covers just about half the postage, but it helps.

California orders are usually shipped about March first; Oregon and Washington orders two to three weeks later. If you live in a section where Spring comes later, we ship in late April, keeping your bulbs fresh as long as possible.

Please Order Early!

We commence planting on or a little after **APRIL FIRST**, and all unsold bulbs are planted within a few days. If your order is in before April first, you are safe, but after that date you might be disappointed. **PLEASE** get in early!

We take personal pride in the production of only the **CHOICEST** bulbs, and buy **NONE** for resale. You are therefore assured of clean, healthy stock, carefully handled at **ALL** times, with complete cultural instructions included.

• To Our Visitors . . .

Our Gardens are located 13½ miles northeast of Bellingham, just off the Mt. Baker Highway. One mile west of Deming, Washington. Look for the pointed sign-post bearing the words "**WILSON'S TIGRIDIAS**." Blooming season is from mid-July until about October First. Be sure to see this display while on your Northwest vacation.

FRANK M. WILSON, Hybridist

Box 389

Bellingham, Washington